Rohini Satellite being launched by ASLV is fabricated at ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore.

U.S. proposal to hold Conference on making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace without their participation

976. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U. S. have proposed that the long-delayed conference on making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace be held without the USA's participation;

(b) whether the Government of India have opposed such a move; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative what steps the Government of India are contemplating to take to sort out the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) While no formal proposal has been made by the United States delegation that the long-delayed conference on the Indain Ocean be held without participation of the United States a recent statement by the U.S. representative in the *Ad-hoc* Commmittee on the Indian Ocean has hinted at such a possibility.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have all along held that the Colombo Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of peace should be attended by the great powers and major maritime users as fell as the littoral and hinterland States. A conference without the participation of the great powers and major maritime users would be meaningless. India has consistently urged the concerned States to display the necessary political will and the cooperate actively in fulfilling the aspirations of the littoral and hinterland States for establishing a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean. Consultations among concerned members of the UN *Ad-hoc* Committee have been continuing recently in the context of the formulation of a consensus draft resolution on this subject to be placed before the 40th Session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Illegal felling of trees in and around Jodhpur

977. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Rajasthan Chapter of INTACH complained about indiscriminate and illegal felling of trees in and around Jodhpur;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have conducted any investigation in the matter; and

(d) what remedial steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Scientific Committee on Antartical Research

978. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become a member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctica Research;

(b) if so from which date;

(c) what steps Government are taking to establish a permanent research station in the Antarctica; and

(d) what additional equipment are being considered for augmenting our research capability in the Antarctica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE

AND ELECTRONICS. (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India become an elected member of the Scientific Committee on Antrarctic Research (SCAR) on 1-10-184.

(c) India has already built a permanently-manned station at Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica during 1983-84 season.

(d) It is proposed to extend the field of our scientific investigations promarily in the disciplines of geology, geophysics, oceanography and meteorology and to upgrade the existing communication systems within Antarctica and between Antarctica and India. To achieve these objectives, the acquisition of sophisticated equipment in each discipline of science to be undertaken would be necessary during each expedition and for those who are staying in Antarctica permanently.

U.N Celebration of its Fortieth Anniversary

979. SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U. N. Security Council propose to convene an extraordinary meeting to celebrate the forteith anniversary of the United Nations;

(b) if so, what are the main items of the agenda for the meet; and

(c) whether India proposes to send any item for discussion for the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Informal consultations have been held among members of the Security Council on the question of a solemn meeting of the Security Council at the highest possible political level during the period between September 23 to October 24, 1985.

(b) and (c) The agenda of the meeting will be devoted to the commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the U. N. The President of the Security Council has been mandated to pursue active consultations with members of the Council in order to set the date and the agenda for this meeting and to decide on the conditions of its implementation, with the help of the UN Secretariat.

India is actively involved in the abcve mentioned consultations and in the detailing of the agenda.

Allotment of mining site in the Indian Ocean

980. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules of procedure for the registration of pioneer Investors and allotment of pioneer area in the Indian Ocean in terms of Resolution II of 30 April 1982 (governing the protection of investments in pioneer activities relating to polymetallic nodules) have been finalised; and

(b) whether a mine site has been allotted to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India's efforts to tackle exremist activities from abroad

981. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: